

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 05350 251558Z

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P R 251300Z APR 75

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TO USINFO WASHDC PRIORITY

SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4072

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMCONGEN JERUSALEM

UNCLAS BEIRUT 5350

USIA FOR IP/M, IPS, IBS, INA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION

1. SUMMARY. THREE LEBANESE DAILIES COMMENTED ON SOVIET OFFER OF SECURITY GUARANTEES TO ISRAEL MADE BY GROMYKO DURING SYRIAN FONMIN KHADDAM'S VISIT TO MOSCOW. LEADING INDEPENDENT "AN-NAHAR" SAID SOVIETS ARE IMITATING AMERICAN POLICY OF "FRIENDSHIP WITH BOTH ARABS AND ISRAELIS." PRO-SOVIET "ASH SHAAB" STATED THAT GROMYKO'S OFFER WILL UNCOVER "FACT THAT ISRAEL WANTS INTERNATIONAL GUARANTEES FOR ITS EXPANSION" RATHER THAN FOR RECOGNIZED INTERNATIONAL BORDERS. PRO-IRAQI "BEIRUT" SAID OFFER AFFIRMS THAT ISRAEL CAN OBTAIN WHAT IT PROFESSES TO WANT FROM USSR IF IT WITHDRAWS FROM OCCUPIED TERRITORIES. END SUMMARY.

2. COMMENTING ON GROMYKO STATEMENT, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF MICHEL ABU JAWDEH OF LEADING INDEPENDENT "AN-NAHAR" WROTE: " REALISTIC TRANSLATION OF THIS IS THAT USSR IS TRYING TO SUCCEED THROUGH FRIENDSHIP WITH BOTH ARABS AND ISRAELIS, THAT IS UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 BEIRUT 05350 251558Z

IT IS REPEATING WHAT U.S. DID... ONE OF ISRAELIS, , ARGUMENTS

AGAINST AMERICAN GUARANTEES HAS BEEN THAT RUSSIANS AND THEIR ARAB ALLIES WILL NOT RESPECT THOSE GUARANTEES. NOW THAT RUSSIANS THEMSELVES ARE OFFERING GUARANTEES, ISRAELI REPLY -- IF NEGATIVE -- WILL INDICATE EXTENT OF DIFFICULTY FACING SOVIET TASK".

3. MOHAMMAD NACCACHE OF LEFTIST PRO-SOVIET "ASH SHAAB":  
"GROMYKO'S WORDS WERE USED EARLIER BY PRESIDENT SADAT, IN DIFFERENT WAY, WHEN IN HIS INTERVIEWS WITH AMERICAN PRESS AND TELEVISION HE ADDRESSED THIS QUESTION TO PRESIDENT FORD: " WE WISH TO KNOW WHETHER U.S. IS PREPARED TO GUARANTEE ISRAEL'S SECURITY OR TO GUARANTEE ISRAEL'S EXPANSION AND OCCUPATION' ... GROMYKO HAS UNCOVERED SECRET OF TRAGEDY OF ABSENCE OF MIDEAST PEACE. IT LIES IN FACT THAT ISRAEL WANTS INTERNATIONAL GUARANTEES FOR ITS EXPANSION AT EXPENSE OF ITS NEIGHBORS, AND DOES NOT WANT GUARANTEES FOR RECOGNIZED INTERNATIONAL BORDERS."

4. SULEIMAN FIRIZLI, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF OF PRO-IRAQI "BEIRUT": "IT WAS CLEAR FROM GROMYKO'S SPEECH THAT WHAT ISRAEL IS ASKING FROM USSR WILL BE ACHIEVED IF IT WITHDRAWS FROM OCCUPIED ARAB LANDS. HERE IS OBSTACLE. IT IS SAME OBSTACLE AT WHICH EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT ANWAR SADAT STOPPED DURING KISSINGER'S RECENT TOUR, WHEN SADAT LEARNED THAT ISRAEL WANTS TO TAKE EVERYTHING IN ADVANCE BEFORE PRESENTING ANYTHING ITSELF."  
GODLEY

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